

REMARKS

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-12 as allegedly being indefinite. Applicants hereby submit amended claims 1-12 which replace the use of the phrase “characterized in that” with “wherein” and which remove the phrase “most advantageously” from the claims. Applicants have also added new claim 13, based on original claim 1. No new matter has been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-12 as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,645,308 to Nilsson (“Nilsson”). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Nilsson is directed to a rotary cutter provided with a set of teeth adapted to cut chips of substantially smaller thickness than the chips cut by the remaining teeth of the cutter. (*See Abstract.*)

Nilsson does not disclose or suggest *on a head end face* (of a chipping head) touching a wooden workpiece being processed, there is formed at least one groove or ridge, the groove or ridge spiraling about an axis of head body rotation, as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Nilsson discloses fully circular grooves on a head end face, beginning with groove 18 and continuing towards the center of the device (see Fig. 1), not a spiraling groove or ridge as recited in claim 1. For at least this reason, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-4 are in condition for allowance, which is earnestly requested.

Independent claims 7 and 13 also recite a spiral groove or ridge *on a lateral surface of a circular saw blade mounted on the chipping head body*. Nilsson does not disclose or suggest a circular saw blade mounted on a chipping head body, nor does it disclose or suggest a spiral

groove or ridge on such a circular saw blade. For at least these reasons, claims 7 and 13 and their dependent claims 5-6 and 8-12 are in condition for allowance, which is earnestly requested.

Applicants request a one-month extension of time and have enclosed the fee for this extension. However, if any underpayment is due or if any overpayment has been made, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any such fee or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 02-4377.

Respectfully submitted,

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